



Public Health Division
6101 Yellowstone Road, Suite 420
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-6340 • 866-571-0944
Fax (307) 777-8264 • www.health.wyo.gov



Michael A. Ceballos
Director

Mark Gordon
Governor

State Health Advisory
Updated Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019
(COVID-19)
Coronavirus Disease 2019 Advisory #9.1
Wyoming Department of Health
April 2, 2020

This Health Advisory is a supplement to COVID-19 Health Advisory #9 issued on March 28, 2020, which can be found here: [State Health Advisory Updated Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#). All of the recommendations in that health advisory remain in effect, except for the following three changes. In addition, the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) is reminding providers and facilities that ill healthcare providers must be excluded from work, regardless of recent SARS-CoV-2 results.

Changes to Health Advisory #9

1. Laboratory testing

The Wyoming Public Health Laboratory (WPHL) prioritizes testing for patients in whom results have implications for clinical management of severely ill patients or patients at risk for more severe illness, hospital infection control, conservation of personal protective equipment, and prevention of transmission in communal settings. Materials needed for testing are in very short supply in Wyoming and across the nation. **To ensure the WPHL can continue to provide testing for prioritized patients, the WPHL will no longer accept samples from patients who do not fall within these priority categories as of Saturday, April 4, 2020. Providers are asked to send these samples to reference laboratories. Samples from patients who do not fall within a priority category may be rejected by the WPHL.** Samples from patients that are specifically requested by WDH Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program will be accepted by the WPHL. WDH will continually evaluate testing reagent availability and will notify providers if WPHL testing can be expanded to other patients.

As a reminder, WPHL testing priorities are as follows: hospitalized patients (including hospitalized patients being tested prior to discharge to a long-term care facility); patients or staff in communal settings such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, or shelters; healthcare workers and first responders who provide direct patient care; people over 65 or

with underlying health conditions that put them at risk for severe illness; people who have close contact with people who are over 65 or who have underlying health conditions; and pregnant women (see below).

A list of reference laboratories with approved SARS-CoV-2 testing can be found here: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/emergency-situations-medical-devices/emergency-use-authorizations#coronavirus>. WDH and state partners are working to expand private testing options in Wyoming as new options become available.

If providers cannot make arrangements to send tests to a reference laboratory, please email WDH at wdh.covid19@wyo.gov.

2. Pregnant patients

Because pregnancy may be a risk factor for more severe illness, and because pregnant patients will require hospitalization for delivery, pregnant patients will be prioritized for testing at WPHL.

3. Asymptomatic transmission

Based on recently reported evidence of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from asymptomatic and presymptomatic persons, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now recommends contact investigations of COVID-19 patients begin 48 hours prior to symptom onset. WDH will recommend 14-day quarantine for persons who had close contact with COVID-19 patients in the 48 hours prior to symptom onset, as well as 14-day quarantine for persons who had close contact with COVID-19 patients while they were symptomatic.

Healthcare worker illness

The WDH is reminding providers that not all persons with COVID-19 will experience fever. Screening healthcare workers to determine whether they are asymptomatic and can provide patient care should include both screening for fever and respiratory symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath, and sore throat. Healthcare workers with fever OR respiratory symptoms should not perform patient care and should remain home until illness resolves, defined as at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery, resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), AND at least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Wyoming healthcare providers and facilities are reminded to check COVID-19 resources available from WDH and CDC. Healthcare providers or facilities can contact WDH through the following channels:

- Please email questions about preparedness, PPE, infection control, or other non-urgent topics to wdh.covid19@wyo.gov. This email address is monitored 7 days a week and replies will come within 24 hours.

- Please contact WPHL with questions about specimen collection, storage, or shipping at 307-777-7431.
- **Please use the WDH Public Health Emergency Line (1-888-996-9104) for urgent questions about a specific patient, healthcare personnel exposure, or other urgent matter. This line is intended ONLY for healthcare providers. Do not share this number with the public.**

Please refer questions from the general public to 211 or to the WDH email box (wdh.covid19@wyo.gov).